

Background for OWW Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- The latest EPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA) for the Western U.S. reports that 39.1% of streams are fair to poor for total nitrogen
- 61.9% are in fair to poor conditions for total phosphorus
- The 2012 EPA National Coastal Condition Report demonstrates that 10% of the Nation's coastal waters are fair to poor (N) and 40% are fair to poor (P)

Collective Efforts on Nutrient Reduction

- Working with USDA and NRCS on better relationships
- Puget Sound Program participates in Large Aquatic Ecosystem Council and National Estuary Program
- Office of Water and Watersheds (OWW) work on Alaska seafood effluent guidelines, partnering with states on impairment listings, TMDLs, and focusing CWA § 319 grants
- Of 39 Indian tribes monitoring water quality under CWA § 106 grants, 34 monitor for both nitrogen and phosphorus

Aligning OWW Strategy with National Nutrient Reduction Framework

1. Prioritize watersheds for N and P reduction
2. Set watershed load reduction goals
3. Ensure effectiveness of point source permits in targeted/priority watersheds
4. Agricultural Areas – target effective practices
5. Storm water and septic systems outside MS4s
6. Accountability and verification measures
7. Annual Reporting
8. Develop work plan and schedule for numeric criteria development

Focusing our Efforts

- Are adequate narrative and/or numeric criteria in place to protect the use?
- Collect ambient N, P and other related nutrient data
- Develop methodologies for interpreting nutrient criteria
- Establish nutrient monitoring requirements in NPDES permits
- Conduct Reasonable Potential Analyses and establish numeric nutrient limits in NPDES permits

OWW Program Goals for Nutrient Reduction

Water Quality Standards Program : Assisting states and tribes in adopting numeric criteria where necessary and appropriate

- Assisting states and tribes in developing tools to enable interpretation of narratives
- Work together to ensure that states and tribes can gather data and explore development of site specific criteria

OWW Program Goals for Nutrient Reduction

Listing Program: Work together to help interested states move toward numeric criteria -- determine appropriate eco-regional or site specific targets

- Work with states that have narratives -- impairment decisions for CWA Integrated Report categorized and listed consistently
- Encourage all states to develop nutrient listing and de-listing methodologies

OWW Program Goals for Nutrient Reduction

TMDL Program: Assist in internal, as well as state/tribal coordination among TMDL and NPDES programs -- so nutrient LA/WLAs can be translated to permit limits and monitoring requirements consistent with TMDL

- Work with NPS Program staff in order to identify BMPs for TMDLs that can facilitate nutrient reductions from agriculture or urban fertilizers

OWW Program Goals for Nutrient Reduction

Nonpoint Source Program: Help coordinate the many federal, state, tribal and local agencies that work on NPS pollution reduction

- Encourage coordinated watershed prioritization process, as well as targeted project funding and enforcement efforts, and encourage states to evaluate the impact of funded 319 projects
- Require updates to state Nonpoint Source Management Plans as a condition of continued 319 grant funding

OWW Program Goals for Nutrient Reduction

Water Quality Trading (WQT) Program: Commit to working on a regional approach to WQT with states, tribes, and nonprofit organizations interested in trading

- Participate in a collaborative process led by the Willamette Partnership (OR) under a \$1.5 million Conservation Innovation Grant awarded by NRCS

OWW Program Goals for Nutrient Reduction

NPDES Permits Program: Ensure coordination with WQS and TMDL staff so that narrative criteria are interpreted and TMDLs are translated into achievable, enforceable permit limits

- Don't wait for TMDLs where a clear need for nutrient limits is warranted by data collection and analysis
- Ensure that, where applicable, permittees required to monitor, encourage delegated states to require nutrient monitoring

OWW Program Goals for Nutrient Reduction

Drinking Water Program: Partner with states and tribes to implement the Source Water Protection (SWP) Program to reduce nutrients and integrate SWP into CWA programs

- Use authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to engage the livestock industry in more active role reducing nitrate in Washington groundwater
- Work with states, tribes, and the multi-partner Source Water Collaborative to facilitate participation with conservation districts, leverage USDA funding

Ideas that Further OWW Program Goals

Draft Strategy organized by 8 Elements

- Highlights current status of OWW Programs
- Lists out ideas for EPA internal and state/tribal coordination
- State Nutrient Profiles from July 2013 included

Thank You!!

Interested in reviewing the Draft Strategy? Should be ready to share in the next few months – Staff Level Work in Progress!

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